- to acknowledge the critical role of private sector with government working as a proactive facilitator and catalyst;

- to create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with States, private sector and other agencies;

- to ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feels India from within".

(c) The policy recognises the need for effective linkages and close coordination among such Departments as Civil Aviation, Environment, Forest, Railways, Home etc. for an integrated approach to tourism.

Funds released for holding fairs and festivals in A.P.

3218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being provided to Andhra Pradesh for holding fairs and festivals in the State as measures of tourism promotion there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fairs and festivals promoted during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides grants-in-aid for celebration of fairs and festivals on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(b) and (c) The following festivals were sanctioned during the last three years for the State of Andhra Pradesh:

Year	Name of the Festival	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1999-2000	1. Millennium Festival	3.50
	2. Deccan Festival	1.60
	3. International Kite Festival	1.62
	4. Girijan Festival	1.37
2000-2001	1. Lumbini Festival	3.20
2001-2002	No proposal for fairs and festival was prioritised for central financial assistance	

Development of tourism

†3219. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to take any specific steps for making tourism more attractive;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this matter so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism has the following short term and long term plans to make Tourism more attractive:—

(1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity,

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.